THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The production of Foodgrains and Rice during 1991-92 is estimated at 167.06 and 73.66 million tonnes respectively. The likely kharif production of foodgrains and rice during 1992-93 is estimated to be 100.0 and 65.0 million tonnes respectively.

As per the latest data available for the year 1991, the average net demand, as indicated by availability of foodgrains and rice for human consumption (excluding demand for seed, feed and wastage) is estimated to be 158.10 and 70.33 million tonnes respectively.

The steps taken to increase the production and availability of foodgrains include implementation of Integrated Programme for Rice Development, Special Foodgrains Production —Wheat, Special Foodgrains Production Programme—Maize and Millets, National Pulses Development Programme and Special Food Production Programme for Pulses, etc.

National Wheat Policy

811. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Roller Flour Milling Industry has recently urged Government to evolve a National Wheat Policy, as per the newsitem entitled "Millers for evolving National Wheat Policy", which appeared in the *Times of India*, dated the 12th September, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) A news item appeared in the *Times of India*, dated the 12th September, 1992 in which it was stated, *inter-alia*, that the Roller Flour Milling Industry has urged the Government to evolve a National Wheat Policy to ensure uninterrupted supply of wheat to the millers. The Roller Flour Milling Industry was delicensed and decontrolled in 1986 and since then the Government is under no obligation to supply wheat to the Roller Flour Mills. As such, the question of formulation of a National Wheat Policy to ensure uninterrupted supply of wheat to the Roller Flour Mills does not arise.

Division of Maharashtra into three Zones for the purpose of Levy Sugar

812. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state what decision Government have taken about dividing Maharashtra into three zones instead of present two for the purpose of levy sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : The question of bifurcation of South Maharashtra zone into two zones has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) who have been asked to undertake a fresh investigation into the cost structure of the sugar industry for fixing the levy sugar prices for the sugar years 1993-94 to 1995-96.

Problems faced by sugar factories in Maharashtra

813. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem being faced by the 38 new sugar factories in Maharashtra to which letters of intent have been given;

(b) what is the progress made by the Committee appointed to take review for reducing the project cost of these factories; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the suggestions made by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) Keeping in view the problems faced by the new sugar factories